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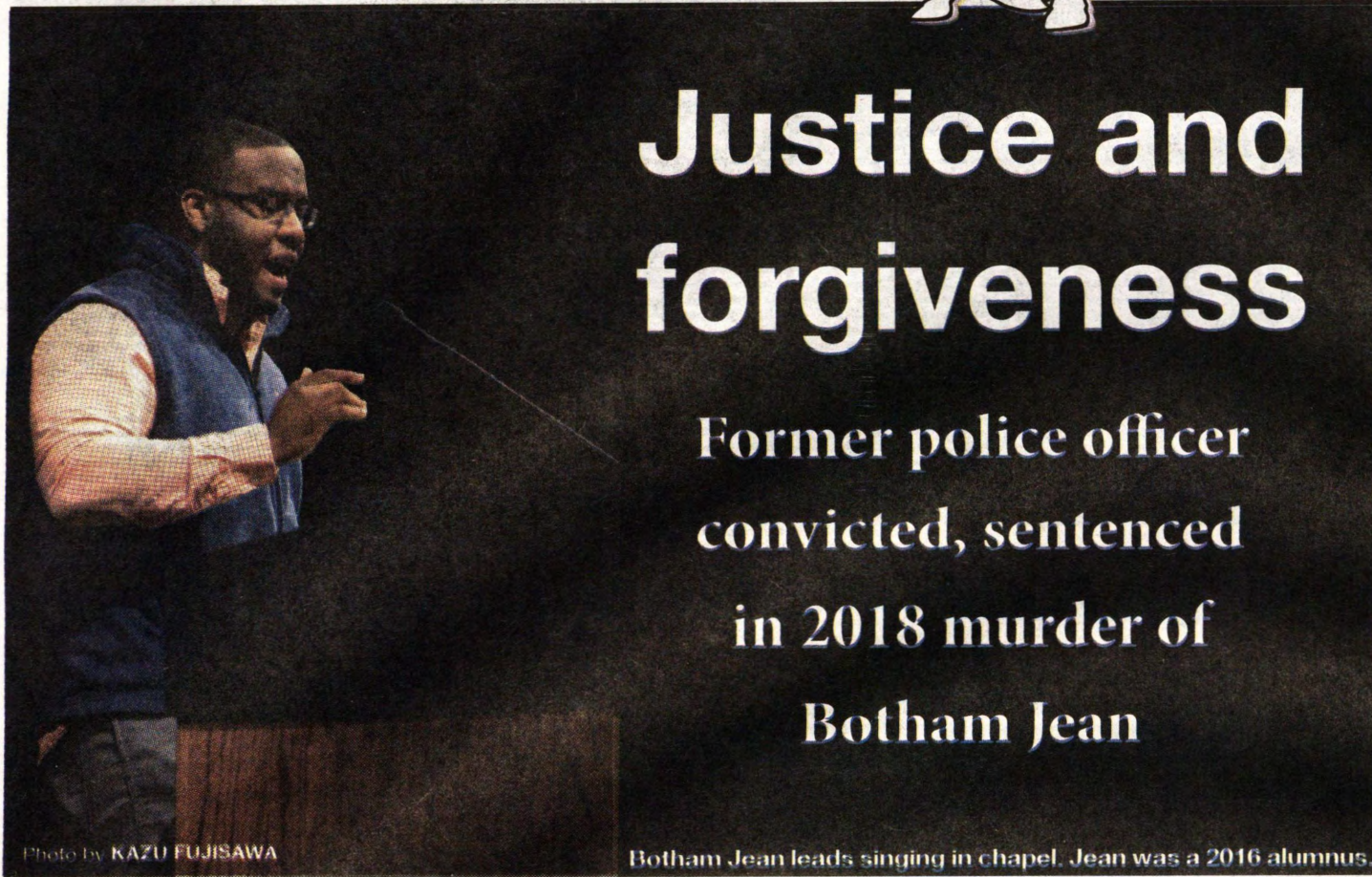


Photo by KAZU FUJISAWA

Justice and forgiveness

Former police officer
convicted, sentenced
in 2018 murder of
Botham Jean

Botham Jean leads singing in chapel. Jean was a 2016 alumnus.

EMILY NICKS
editor-in-chief

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger was convicted of the murder of Botham Jean, a 2016 Harding University alumnus, in his home on Sept. 6, 2018. The day after this conviction, on Oct. 2, Guyger was sentenced to 10 years in prison with no possibility of probation.

Over a year after Jean was killed and two days after what would have been his 28th birthday, Guyger was convicted of murder in Dallas by a unanimous vote from the jury in a trial overseen by Dallas County District Judge Tammy Kemp.

According to Texas law, murder does not have to be premeditated to lead to conviction. Under Section 19.02 in Title 5 of the Texas Penal Code, a person commits murder if he or she “intends to cause serious bodily injury and commits an act clearly dangerous to human life that causes the death of an individual.” This was the main arguing point of the prosecution during Guyger’s trial.

Lori Klein, assistant professor of political science, said that the case was complex from the beginning, and the jury had a lot of elements to consider as the trial proceeded, including specific laws and doctrines in the state of Texas.

“From my sense of what the prosecution presented, they did a really crisp, clear job of presenting this case, and I think that was definitely needed,” Klein said. “This is a complex and deeply confusing case for people and probably so much so for the jury, too.”

One such element that added complexity to the trial is what is known as Castle Doctrine. Established in Texas Senate Bill 378 passed in 2007, Castle Doctrine states that deadly force is reasonable when used upon an intruder in one’s own home. Since Jean’s death, Guyger has said she believed she was in her own apartment, which was exactly one floor below Jean. Guyger’s defense brought Castle Doctrine to be considered before the jury, prompting them to ask for further clarification on the ruling, according to the New York Times.

Todd Gentry, along with his family, was in Dallas with the Jean family for almost two weeks before and during the trial process.

As directors of The Original Rock House Ministry that Jean was heavily involved with during his time at Harding, the Gentry family was like Jean’s adopted family in the States. Gentry said that it was never a question whether or not they would join the family in Dallas — they went with no hesitation.

Because the Gentrys were with the Jean family through the trial, they witnessed some of the pain, faith and healing Jean’s family was processing.

“When the verdict came in ... the family did not yell or let out. That was kind of an activist that was in the room that yelled out when the jury’s verdict came through,” Gentry said. “I’ll tell you that the family now has begun the journey of ‘how do we heal?’ Because grief was somewhat put on hold. All along, the biggest thing they wanted to know was why. Tell us why, how this happened ... it’s not that they want ill for [Guyger].”

Gentry acknowledged how emotional the process of healing will be for Jean’s family, and he also recognized the toll the trial took on him and his family after knowing Jean so closely for over seven years.

“When the prosecution and defense rested, [my wife] and I felt very emotional because for a year we stood up for a man that couldn’t stand up for himself, because he was dead,” Gentry said. “We were more emotional with the [end of proceedings] than the verdict of murder ... When the prosecution finished, when the case was closed as the jury went in to deliberate, the prosecutors hugged and cried.”

Harding University Assistant Vice President of Advancement Steve Lake knew Jean through the Barnabas Project, a University mentoring program. Lake served as Jean’s spiritual development mentor for 12 months, and he said that their relationship became much stronger through this process. Lake chose to avoid some of the details of the trial, such as officers’ body camera footage, as it proceeded.

“I’m not speaking for anybody else in the equation, but for me, I opted to distance from that pain and from the potential feelings that I would have,” Lake said. “For me, I think it was the right decision to distance because I really want to remember Botham

the way he was and not the way he died, but the way he lived.”

One moment of the trial proceedings Lake did not distance himself from, was the victim impact statement made by Jean’s younger brother Brandt Jean on Wednesday after Guyger had been sentenced to 10 years. In an emotional statement captured on video and widely circulated online, Brandt did what many would consider to be radical: He publicly forgave his brother’s murderer.

“I want the best for you, because I know that’s exactly what Botham would want you to do. And the best would be to give your life to Christ,” Jean said. “I think giving your life to Christ would be the best thing that Botham would want you to do. Again, I love you as a person and I don’t wish anything bad on you. I don’t know if this is possible, but can I give her a hug, please? Please?”

And with permission from Judge Kemp, Brandt and Guyger embraced with audible sobs, as Kemp wiped away tears in the background.

According to The Dallas Morning News, Brandt and Guyger’s hug wasn’t the only emotional moment post-sentencing. The local media outlet reported that after the courtroom had begun to empty, Kemp approached Guyger with a Bible as a gift, an embrace and a few words overheard by The Dallas Morning News journalists.

“Ma’am, it’s not because I am good. It’s because I believe in Christ,” Kemp said to Guyger, according to The Dallas Morning News. “Forgive yourself.”

As those who knew and loved him continue forward in a process of healing, Jean’s legacy remains as one of faith, kindness and — as made evident over the past week — mercy.

“There’s been a phrase, ‘Be like Bo,’ and, and the truth is, what we want to do is be like Jesus — but Bo is a great example of that,” Gentry said. “I think the way to honor him is to continue to do good things in the name of Jesus, to continue to look beyond race, because he did. Continue to sing and praise God and then pray specifically, I think the family would say pray for their healing and all the people that loved him. And I then I would think they would say, and now pray for the soul of Amber Guyger.”

Timeline of Events

2018

Sept. 6

Harding alumnus Botham Jean was eating ice cream and watching TV in his apartment. Dallas police officer Amber Guyger went to her apartment complex after a 13 1/2-hour shift and entered Jean’s unlocked apartment, mistaking it for her own. Guyger assumed Jean was a threat and fatally shot him in the chest. Moments later, Guyger called 911.

Sept. 9

Guyger was arrested and charged with manslaughter. She was released on \$300,000 bond and placed on administrative leave from the Dallas Police Department.

Sept. 13

Hundreds of family and loved ones attended Jean’s funeral in Dallas. Several busloads of Harding students traveled to be in attendance.

Sept. 24

Dallas Police Chief Renee Hall announced Guyger had been fired.

Nov. 30

A Dallas County grand jury indicted Guyger on one count of murder. Guyger pleaded not guilty.

2019

Sept. 23

Guyger’s murder trial began in Dallas.

Murder?

“In the last 10 minutes of Bo’s life, Amber Guyger made a series of unreasonable errors, and unreasonable decisions, and unreasonable choices ...”

— Jason Morris, Dallas County Assistant District Attorney

Self-Defense?

“She’s an ordinary and prudent person who made a mistake. She believes this intruder is coming to kill her.”

— Robert Rogers, Amber Guyger’s defense attorney

Sept. 24

Body camera footage from the on-duty officers who arrived on the scene was shown to jurors.

Sept. 30

The jury began deliberations.

Oct. 1

The jury convicted Guyger of murder.

Oct. 2

The jury sentenced Guyger to 10 years in prison.

Graphic by DARRIAN BAGLEY

SA plans testimony-sharing event

EMILY SUNDERMEIER
student writer

On Tuesday, Oct. 8, the Student Association (SA) will host its first Testimony Tuesday from 4-5 p.m. in the Liberty Room. According to organizers, it will be a time for students to listen to two testimonies and participate in a question-and-answer session afterward. The SA’s spiritual life committee said

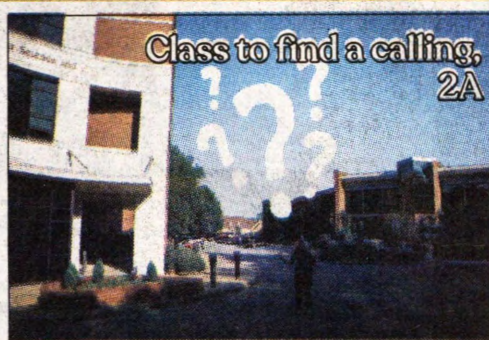
they wanted to create an event that would engage students with one another spiritually, and they believed listening to testimonies would be beneficial.

Junior Davis Rowan is head of the SA’s spiritual life committee. He said the idea for Testimony Tuesdays came about during a brainstorming session with the committee, and everyone seemed to like the idea and wanted to know how to make Testimony Tuesdays a reality. He believed listening to the testimonies of

others may help give more insight into their personal stories.

“I heard this quote once: ‘The reason God can love everyone is because he knows everybody’s story,’” Rowan said. “I think [Testimony Tuesday] would be helpful. You don’t know everyone’s story, so hearing their story might change your perspective of that person and make you appreciate them more.”

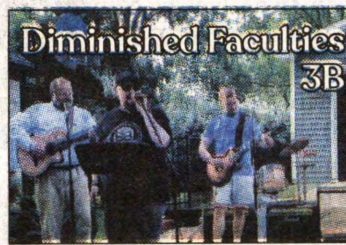
SEE TESTIMONY, PAGE 2A



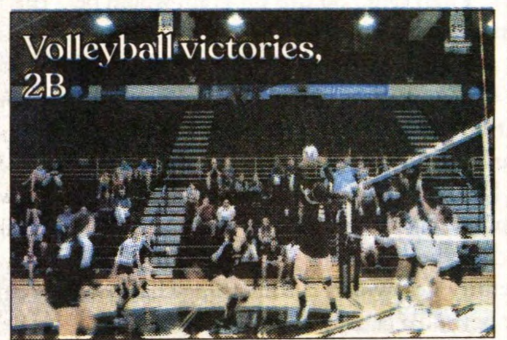
Class to find a calling, 2A



Fall break ideas, 4B



Diminished Facilities 3B



Volleyball victories, 2B

In This Issue

University College offers course for students to explore majors

DANIELA CUELLER
student writer

As of fall 2019, Harding is offering a new eight-week course called UNIV 2100 – Explorations of Calling, Career and Vocation.

The University is offering this new course for students who are unsure which major is right for them. According to Harding's catalog, this course targets students who are not yet fully committed to a major or are exploring other options.

Dean of the University College Kevin Kehl said this course is an important new piece to the University College that will focus on educating students on different careers and resources the University offers.

The course was created after administrators saw a need for a program to provide more guidance and insight to students who do not know where their main focus should be or what their career path should look like.

UNIV 2100 is a one-credit-hour, 8-week course that will be offered two times a semester for any student. The class will also be required for students who have over 60 hours and have not yet declared a major.

According to Kehl, a trend among college students who have not declared a major is to keep taking different classes, which Kehl said may not be the best decision for all students.

"There's this concern about student debt," Kehl said. "If you don't know what you're going to do, is it wise to just keep taking different classes and majors?"

The course also helps students identify their strengths and weaknesses, as well as determine how their personalities match different career choices.

Kim Kirkman, executive director of the American Studies Institute and current instructor for UNIV 2100, said her class takes assessments that produce reports of each of their personalities, which help them make their own degree plans.



Freshman Sterling Pruitt considers her options. University College will offer a course to help students make critical career decisions.

Photo by RYANN HEIM

Both Kirkman and Kehl agreed that choosing the right career path is a big decision for every student that should not be taken lightly. Although this decision is an important one, students should not wait too long to make it.

"I think that by the third semester, you should have a major declared, or be working toward making a decision," Kirkman said.

Sophomore Cade Pugh started college as an undeclared major and believes taking this course would have helped him figure out what he wanted to do sooner. He also said he encourages students to take this course.

"I definitely would've taken this course because I feel like I didn't know what I wanted to do coming in, and I was kind of lost," Pugh said. "So this program would be super helpful now."

Although this course has been influenced by similar courses in universities across the nation, Kehl said the program at Harding stands out because of its spiritual focus.

"What we hope to be doing here at Harding is preparing students for several roles in life, and get them thinking about where their true identity lies, which is something that goes far beyond a career," Kehl said.



The New York City skyline shines brightly at night. The College of Education made plans to travel to the city in January 2020.

Photo by HANNAH WISE

College of Education plans New York trip

BRIELLE HETHERINGTON
news editor

The Cannon-Clary College of Education plans to travel with a group of 20 students to New York City for the first time in January 2020 with associate professors of education Steve Warren and Cherie Smith. Though other departments and colleges within Harding University have made trips to the northeastern city, this will be the first trip administered by this college.

Students will have the opportunity to partake in a three-day workshop at Columbia University among other activities, which include observing public school systems within the city, visiting the 9/11 Memorial and Ellis Island, touring Times Square, and various other activities.

However, the main activity that differentiates this trip from other New York City trips, is the workshop with Columbia University. Warren said students will work with the professional development staff of Teachers College at Columbia University and receive a certificate on behalf of the university.

Columbia University has a history that spans 250 years and has a well-respected reputation as a private Ivy League institution.

Teachers College is well known for its graduate studies in education, psychology and health sciences, according to Columbia University's official website.

Students will also have the opportunity to observe the diverse public school systems within the city and witness various methods of teaching.

"Most of our students are not going to teach in Searcy — many of them will teach in environments very different from those that they grew up in, whether they grew up in a Christian school, home-school, or even a rural public school, they may find themselves teaching in very diverse environments," Dean of the College of Education Raymond Lee said. "This is one other opportunity to get a glimpse into the possibilities of what students may be finding themselves in as teachers."

Between 1892 and 1954, millions of immigrants arrived in New York Harbor and passed through Ellis Island on their journey to becoming U.S. citizens. It is estimated that up to 40 percent of Americans can trace at least one ancestor to that port of entry, as stated by National Parks Service.

New York has been deemed "The Melting Pot" of cultures, which subsequently makes it the melting pot of religion, art, music and education. With this trip, education students will have the opportunity to witness the

combination of cultures firsthand.

"I am excited for my future teachers to get a sense of the American story and the relationship between education, immigration and prosperity," Warren said.

Lee said education is more than paper, scissors and apples — teachers work in a world that is a very difficult one to navigate with a variety of challenges. This trip is

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I am excited for my future teachers to get a sense of the American story and the relationship between education, immigration and prosperity.

— Steve Warren,
associate professor of education

designed to give students a glimpse into that world and what the job will require of them.

Lee emphasized the importance of teachers in their students' lives.

"Many of our graduates, as they go out into teaching, they may be the only person who will have this degree of influence over students and their families. We view it as a missional opportunity," Lee said.

TESTIMONY, 2A

The two speakers for the first Testimony Tuesday will be Dr. Mac Sandlin, assistant professor of Bible and religion, and Stephanie O'Brien, director of Upward Bound.

Sandlin said that as followers of Christ, it is important to talk about what God has done as a way of reaching out to other believers.

"Testimonies are a biblical genre; Paul gives his in Acts," Sandlin said. "That's enough to justify their importance to me. But testimonies are also a way of bearing witness to the continued work of God's spirit in the church today, an exercise in seeing God, which is the whole point of the Christian faith."

Testimony Tuesday will be a one-hour event formatted with the speakers sharing for 20

minutes each followed by an opportunity for audience members to ask the speakers questions.

Freshman Seth Hammitt is one of two freshmen on the SA's spiritual life committee. He said he hopes the first Testimony Tuesday will be one of many, as it's a good way to connect with peers who may be struggling.

"It's a good way to get to know other people ... and it's a good way to connect with yourself," Hammitt said. "It makes you think, 'Oh, this person shared about this story in their life, and now I feel more comfortable telling others and sharing how I feel about this topic with somebody else.'"

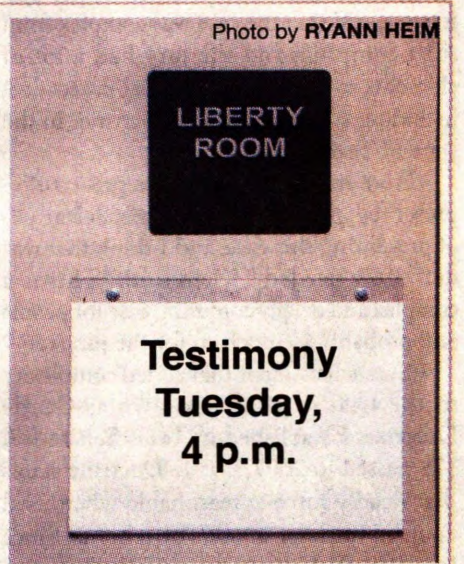


Photo by RYANN HEIM

Historic Rialto hosts premiere party for Hulu's Small Business Revolution

JESSICA SIMMONS
student writer

On Oct. 8, the Rialto Theater lights will be a beacon signaling Searcy's national debt as the town comes together to watch the premiere of season four of Hulu's "Small Business Revolution — Main Street" (SBR).

Last year, voters across America selected Searcy from a run-off of six towns to receive a \$500,000 revitalization for six of its small businesses, which is documented in the show's upcoming season. On Tuesday, a season four marathon will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Rialto.

"The Rialto is home for a lot of people," Amy Burton, executive director of Main Street Searcy, said. "It's an iconic building. It's in the heart of downtown. It just made sense."

Season four will tell Searcy's tale, including the stories of the six businesses chosen: Whilma's Filipino Restaurant, ARganic Woodwork, El Mercado, Nooma Mind Body Experience, Zion Climbing & Event Center and Savor + Sip Coffeehouse.

"Since Searcy is a small town, we have to work hard on making sure our small businesses are supported," freshman Searcy native Anna Westbrook said. "Getting to see these businesses broadcasted nationally is wonderful because these businesses have done so much for our community."

Although Searcy is not home base for many Harding students, SBR leaders said that the small business scene is relevant to those on campus. Burton encouraged students to leave Searcy better than they found it, because the future can be surprising.

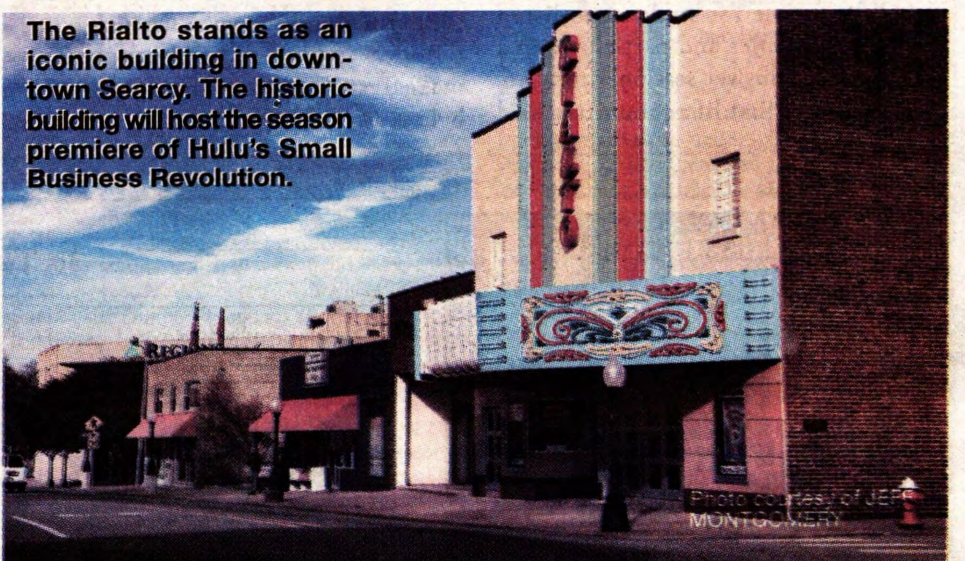
Some students, like Searcy SBR leader and Harding alumnus Mat Faulkner, made the town home for their family. Others will remain tied to Searcy through alumni events and even their children's Harding experience.

In addition to future benefits, there are also benefits for students taking an interest now in Searcy's small businesses. As Burton said, the season four marathon at

the Rialto is one way to keep Searcy viable by encouraging small businesses locally.

"We want to continue to invite and include the Harding students off the campus into the community to have fun, to eat, to shop and then also to volunteer," Faulkner said. "The more that they get to know people in the community, the more they can be a part of the community while they're here at Harding."

Seating at the Rialto opens at 5 p.m. on Oct. 8. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Although the marathon will run continually with brief breaks between episodes, residents and students are encouraged to come and go as their schedules allow.



The Rialto stands as an iconic building in downtown Searcy. The historic building will host the season premiere of Hulu's Small Business Revolution.

Photo courtesy of JEFF MONTGOMERY



State of the SA
Carson Gentry
Guest Writer

This past weekend would have been Botham Jean's 28th birthday. To celebrate this occasion, there was a big birthday bash in his remembrance in Dallas. I was lucky enough to be able to attend this gala, called the Botham Jean Foundation's Red Tie Event. There were hundreds of people in attendance ranging from politicians, retired Dallas Cowboy football players and, of course, some Harding representatives.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness for the Botham Jean Foundation and the legacy that it is trying to emulate. Throughout the evening, we were all reminded of Botham's legacy. I consider myself so lucky to have known Botham personally and be able to speak to his character. He loved people so well and served the least of these. Botham lived his life for the Lord, and therefore has a legacy worth celebrating.

A legacy like Botham

This event led me to reflect on other people who have left behind a legacy. I think of Mary Joy Uebelein and how seriously she loved and cared for people. I think of Mark Perrone and the special way he had of finding a point of connection with everyone. I think of Dr. Ganus and the impact he had all over the world with his willingness to serve.

These are not the only people who have set an example of legacy, but these are a few that I remember daily. I have now begun to ask myself, what will my legacy will be? Will I have a legacy like these people, or will I go from this life with nothing to show for it?

Legacy is not something that is spoken into existence. We have no verbal input on how people are going to remember us; the way we live our lives determines our legacy. So what do you want your legacy to be? For me, I had to establish what I don't

want to be remembered as: I don't want to be remembered for my looks or my major. I don't want to be remembered as the Student Association guy or chapel song leader. I don't want to be remembered by what club I'm in, the sports I played or my job after college.

I've realized that I don't even want to be remembered as Carson Gentry. I want to be remembered as a loyal follower of Jesus.

Jesus' legacy lives on today in everyone's lives. It's a crucial part of Mary Joy's, Mark's, Botham's, Lis Jones', Dr. Ganus' and hopefully my own legacy. Their legacies are so impactful because of who was at the center of them.

I want you to determine how you want to be remembered. Do the most you can to create a God-honoring legacy and find a way to serve people every day.

CARSON GENTRY is a guest writer for The Bison. He may be contacted at sa@harding.edu.



Little but loud
Kinsey Stubblefield
Opinions Editor

Musical memory

For as long as I can remember, I have always loved music. It didn't matter what kind, I wanted to hear it all and understand why and how it makes others feel. As I got older, through high school band and choir, I began to realize that I was not the only one whose love for music took them back to some of their best, and worst, memories. Music makes us remember people, places and situations we thought had been long forgotten because of its powerful tie to our memories.

Last weekend, I took a class trip to New England, where autumn has begun its cycle — pumpkins everywhere, cool crisp air, color-changing trees and crunching leaves beneath my feet. This made me begin to think about my first fall at Harding, specifically the moment when I pressed play on The Head and the Heart's album "Signs of Light." Everything about this album washed me in the feeling of fall; the soft drum beats and guitar strums, their voices like whispers, the transitions between songs. It is tied to some of my dearest memories from that season of freshman year.

I strongly tie certain songs to people when I think of them. Particularly, I think of one person and song that still sticks with me.

Last semester, my significant other, Will Philbrick, went abroad for three months to Florence, Italy. Before he left, we went on our first date to see the movie "Spider-Man: Into the SpiderVerse," where one of the headlining songs was Post Malone's "Sunflower." The popularity of this song increased as the spring semester continued while Will was away. This was a blessing. Its constant streaming in just about any store, restaurant or vehicle was a reminder of the time before Will went away — to our first date at the movies with this song becoming ours.

Going abroad is already a time full of unforgettable memories and relationships. I have created an even greater sense of nostalgia tying my love for music into these memories. My friends and I were constantly blaring the same 15 or so songs in the Artemis, the housing at Harding University in Greece. Those songs turned into a collaborative playlist that continued to be added to throughout our whole semester.

As we neared the end of our final free travel, I played the song "Nothing Short of Thankful" by The Avett Brothers on repeat every time we were on trains or planes. It perfectly captures the gratitude I felt for my group of pals who put up with me for three months and our ability to travel to so many countries in two short weeks together. In the lyrics, it mentions weary travelers ready to be home and no longer travelling. By the end of three months, I was in need of rest, but was nothing short of thankful for the experience I just had in Greece.

If you too feel the psychological tie to music, I encourage you to create a playlist of those memorable songs and share while asking others about their own. Memories are so fragile, but somehow when a certain song — first heard in high school — is played later in life, it has the ability to transport you back to a special moment, person or place. Feel the memory wash over you. If not for yourself, do it for me or the person it's tied to; just to remember for a moment

KINSEY STUBBLEFIELD is the opinions editor for The Bison. She may be contacted at kstubblefield@harding.edu. Twitter: @kinseystubbs



Dane Richey
Guest Writer

The fight against sexual assault is not just a woman's issue, but also a man's. More accurately, it's humanity's issue. This fact became clear to me in the spring semester of freshman year when, over and over again, I heard and read story after story about cases of sexual assault that never met justice. But how would I do something about it? The answer came a few weeks later when a live-feed of an HUbrave panel came up on my Twitter timeline.

With a couple of friends, I sought out this organization in the fall of sophomore year. As a member of HUbrave, I quickly learned the tragic history between sexual assault and justice. Moreover, I came to understand that this problem affects individuals across town, down the street and in the homes of our neighbors, not just people on the other side of the globe. I want to fight, scream and bring retribution — and you should, too. Unfortunately, no single person can be an entire justice system. However, each of us can make a difference. Together, through organizations like HUbrave, we

can educate, empower and raise awareness surrounding the dangers and injustices of sexual violence.

Some might be thinking, "Is it not common sense to refrain from sexually assaulting someone?" or "Yes, I agree that justice for sexual assault victims is incredibly important, but this is Harding. We don't have those issues here." Wrong. Everyone reading this probably knows someone who is a victim, whether you're aware of it or not. Additionally, everyone reading probably knows a woman and a man who is a victim. Again, this is not specific to females or males, but a problem for both genders.

As a male member of HUbrave, I desire not only that the stigma surrounding sexual assault be eradicated, but also break down the culture reinforcing this behavior. Locker-room talk, crude jokes, cat-calling and inappropriate comments cannot be tolerated. Subconscious biases are what give rise to dangerous behaviors and acts of sexual violence. Small issues transform into huge problems, and we have to get to the root of the problem.

Stand with you

As outlined previously, one of the goals of HUbrave is to educate others about sexual assault, consent and what we can all do to take a stand against sexual violence. But there is more. As followers of Jesus, who will ultimately provide justice for all, we have to be the voices for the victims of sexual violence. Using words directly from HUbrave's constitution, "We are bound not only in purpose but in heart, holding fervently to the belief that the lives of those around us can be no better filled than by the abounding love of Christ. We will strive to ensure that our passion and dedication to the principles presented will not fade. Our ultimate aim is to proclaim freedom in the name of Jesus Christ."

To those affected in any way by sexual violence, I stand with you. Men stand with you. Women stand with you. HUbrave stands with you. Humanity stands with you. And we will not stop proclaiming your justice and your freedom.

DANE RICHEY is a guest writer for The Bison. He may be contacted at drichey@harding.edu.

Joy in Christ, not in (or out of) clubs

Sometimes I ponder what my time at Harding would have looked like if I had been in a social club. What-ifs are always fun to think about, but not to dwell on. This applies to most things that don't work out in our lives: relationships, friendships, job opportunities, etc. Sure, I think being in a club would have been a wonderful addition to my time at Harding, but it just ended up not being part of my path. It is not part of my story.

I am a senior, and almost all of my close friends are in a club (or two), and I have been able to witness each of them find community, friendship, love and acceptance in each of their social clubs. But, we have also found that same community with each other. I am in a unique place: I am not part of a club, but I have had the pleasure of witnessing all the things a club can do for those around me. I have also witnessed all of the love and joy you can find outside of one. I have felt accepted, loved and cherished through my friends who all wear different colored jerseys

on Fridays. At the end of the day, the truth is this: Clubs are something to be a part of, and they can become a part of you, but they are not something that defines you or makes you who you are.

My encouragement to people in a social club: Love your club and don't be afraid to have pride in it! There are girls and guys who wish deeply they could be a part of it, so don't take it for granted. Love the people in your club, and other clubs, and those not in a club. Social clubs can be a wonderful way to enrich your time at Harding, but let's not let them define it.

My encouragement to people who are not in a social club: Do not let that hinder your time at Harding. Your time here is not less significant just because you are not involved in a club. You are still worthy of love and acceptance. Get involved in other campus activities. During Club Week and the club process, don't be a Debbie downer; I have found so much joy in serving my friends during those big events instead of sulking

about not being part of them. Bringing them coffee and Sonic, or just an encouraging note is a great way to serve those people around you.

What I have learned from my time at Harding is that whether you are in a club or not, your true identity lies with Christ. He is where you should find your community, love and acceptance. He gives unfailing and never-ending love that will last longer than what we are a part of on campus. Romans 15:7 states, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." This verse, and the surrounding chapter, has been such an encouragement to me, and I hope it can be for you as well. I hope you can find your worth, love and grace in Jesus Christ whether you are in a club or not. He loves us earnestly and wants us to feel accepted. Living in that freedom has changed my life, and I hope it can change yours.

ANNA MILLIRON is a guest writer for The Bison. She may be contacted at amilliron@harding.edu.

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Learning to swim

Emily Nicks
Editor-in-Chief

Too cool for rules

"You can't rough the passer."
"You have to wait until she snaps the ball to move."

"You can't block with your hands."

Last week, women's social clubs kicked off their annual flag football season, and so began several weeks of me forgetting all sorts of rules. This week I played my first flag football game in Division II, and it's truly remarkable how many times I was reprimanded for disobeying guidelines such as those above.

It's not that I'm completely inept when it comes to the basics of football. After seven years in marching band throughout both high school and college, I've watched enough games to understand the general guidelines. And to be fair, many rules in the intramural social club league are different than those in NCAA tackle football. My problem isn't a lack of knowledge, however — my problem is that I can never remember them during the play itself.

Guidelines are important to life. In the example of flag football, rules keep players safe and keep the game fair. Without protective pads or helmets, players certainly should not be allowed to fully tackle. Without sidelines, the game would be chaos in lieu of spacial boundaries. The guidelines for flag football help make the game bearable.

Generally, many of us have an understanding of the importance of regulations in games, classes, work and society. Even when we complain (and even when we "forget" about them), we get it. Reasonable rules help things run.

Unfortunately, there is one area in which we tend to disregard rules almost constantly. Actually, I don't even think we recognize the importance of guidelines in this area at all.

Our distribution of personal time should have boundaries in place, serving as our own rules for day-to-day life.

I'll be completely honest — when I first stepped into the role of editor this year, things didn't go well. I allowed this job to take over all my time, and it wasn't healthy. My relationships suffered, both my physical and mental health took a nosedive, and my spiritual life was rocky at best. Those first two weeks were rough.

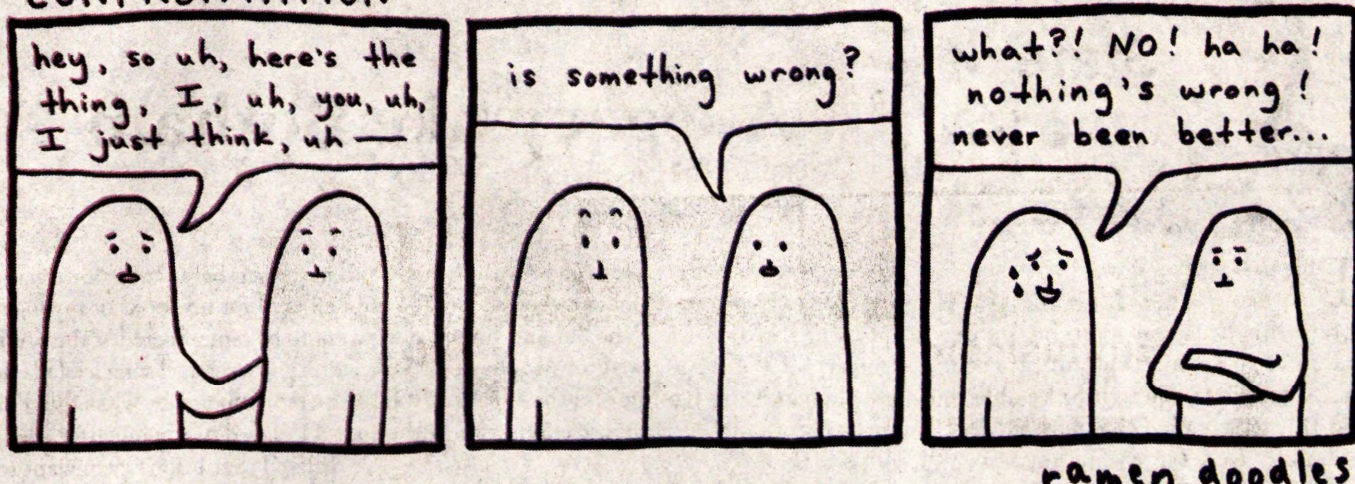
At the end of the last school year, my friend and former editor-in-chief Kaleb Turner sat down to graciously give me advice as I prepared for this new role. He shared a lot of wisdom with me that afternoon on the porch of Midnight Oil, but the biggest piece of counsel was the one I ignored for the longest time. Kaleb told me to set boundaries for myself — to not let this job take over my life.

After a few weeks of doing exactly the opposite of that, I finally listened to his advice and began establishing, and actually following, personal boundaries. In giving up time dedicated to work, I've somehow found myself more productive. Just as I follow AP Style guidelines in my writing, I try to follow the rules regarding how I spend my time.

Since establishing and being intentional with my personal rules, I've found myself reconnecting with several friends. I have felt able to make spontaneous coffee trips without the guilt of neglecting work. I've even found time to play flag football — now I just need to actually figure out those rules, too.

EMILY NICKS is the editor-in-chief for The Bison. She may be contacted at enicks@harding.edu.

CONFRONTATION



Rachel Bible
Guest Writer

This summer I took classes at the largest school in my state. It took an hour to walk across campus, so I rode my bike everywhere or I never would've made it to my classes on time. I noticed very early on that so many people at this school would walk around with their heads straight down in their phones, not paying a lick of attention to where they were going. This made biking tricky. I'm a pretty good driver if I do say so myself, but it is a feat for me, and I am no speed demon.

The reason I don't bike to each class here at Harding is because of the dirty looks most bicyclists get on campus. I get at least one furrowed brow every time I even touch my bike. And I find myself giving the same looks when I am not on my bike.

Here's why I think bicyclists get the "how could you even think about getting this close

to me" looks no matter where we bike: cell phones. We are a connected generation, and we hate being told that we aren't. As biased as I can be, I do genuinely think that social media can be a good thing, within reason. Hear me out here — when you're scrolling through Instagram on your way from chapel to general biology, you've got time to walk slowly. You've got time to check on every person you know, stop to talk and warn the freshman to rank their clubs by Friday, all while scrolling. I do it at least once every day.

But when I bike to class, I am completely locked in on staying upright, getting to class and not hitting anyone. I don't like how often I notice people getting jumpy when a bike goes by. Especially when that jumpy person is on their phone. It scares me just as badly as it scares them when I bike by. I mean, what if I do hit someone? We'd both end up with

skid marks and an awkward story. Even as a lover of a good awkward story, the idea of this greatly distresses me. No one wants to hit a pedestrian while on a bike; in either role, this is not an inviting thought.

I have no issues with phones, texting while walking, walking and talking, or any combination of distracted pedestrianism. I just want everyone on campus to realize that, despite popular belief, bicyclists are watching where they're going, especially when the pedestrians are on their phones. Biking in crowds is scary, just like walking in a crowd of cyclists doesn't feel like a picnic on the front lawn. Let's all just be more aware of each other and enjoy the view as we scroll and stroll.

RACHEL BIBLE is a guest writer for The Bison. She may be contacted at rbible@harding.edu.

Scrolling and strolling

Just the Clax

When matters come to a head

You may have heard of the poet T. S. Eliot. He was a leader of the High Modernist movement, which means he wrote avant-garde verses understood by maybe 14 people. His poetry appeals to a certain urbane intellectual, the kind who doesn't read columns like this.

But here's the thing: T. S. Eliot loved lowbrow entertainment. He went to see vaudeville shows. He watched Marx Brothers comedies. He enjoyed sports like boxing. Working at a publishing company for much of his life, he would sometimes liven up stuffy board meetings by lighting firecrackers under the table.

I am telling you this because I was recently informed that my taste in salad is practically Philistine.

Here is what happened. My favorite restaurant has long served iceberg lettuce on its salad bar. But when I came back to Searcy after summer vacation, I discovered that the iceberg had been replaced with spinach and red leaf. At first, I took the change in stride, assuming there had been a sale on spinach somewhere and that this disruption would be over soon. But two months have passed, and the iceberg has not returned.

So, I asked my friends about it, and I was told flatly that iceberg is considered the bottom-of-the-barrel when it comes to lettuce. It's the lowest rung on the ladder of leafy vegetables, far beneath such upscale greenery as romaine, arugula and frisée. And to add insult to injury, my friends were positively giddy about the new options on the salad bar.

I was already on the fence about salad to begin with. I choke down a plateful of the stuff once a week purely to soothe



Michael Claxton
Narrative Columnist

my conscience and have discovered that it tastes a lot better with fried chicken fingers piled on top. But only if the base of this salad casserole is iceberg lettuce.

Clearly, this preference is consistent with my taste in everything else. For a man who likes Waffle House, Burt Reynolds' movies and Air Supply, iceberg lettuce is just par for the course. It is the French's Mustard of leafy vegetables, the Big K Cola of greenery, the saltine cracker of the salad bar. It's the kind of thing you serve with your chicken pot pie.

T.S. Eliot would have ordered iceberg lettuce.

It's a serious lettuce. It has heft. It has crunch. You can plunge a fork into it and spear several pieces at once. I'm told you can even grill it.

Not so with this limp, flaccid, frou-frou lettuce they're trying to force upon us. That stuff is as thin as tissue. Eating it with a fork is like trying to stab an eel with a broken toothpick. This featherweight greenery will simply not stay on a utensil. You have to use tweezers instead. Plus, when I scoop a pile of it on my plate, I feel like I'm eating out of the backyard. If I wanted to munch on leaves, I would take a fork and a box of croutons to Vermont.

I understand that restaurants must keep things exciting. And just today, I stood behind a woman in the salad line

who went on and on about the pretty new lettuce.

I wanted to tell her that iceberg is crisp. It has substance. It has just as much fiber and keeps two weeks longer in the fridge than most of the wilted, feeble, Frenchified fluff that salad hipsters keep trying to shame us into eating.

Red leaf is clearly the Grey Poupon of lettuce. T. S. Eliot would never spread Grey Poupon on his hot dog. Besides, I refuse to eat anything whose name has "poop" as a syllable.

Have you ever looked at a piece of red leaf lettuce? This flimsy frippery is nothing more than garnish. It's exactly what you would expect to see on the plate next to your lavender-glazed duck at La Maison — and to see itemized on the bill for \$8.

I read somewhere that worldwide lettuce production is 27 million metric tons each year. I'll bet most of that is iceberg because you would have to pile up a whole lot of that lightweight, gossamer spinach to equal even a pound, much less a ton.

My mother buys iceberg lettuce, which settles the matter as far as I'm concerned. So, I'll continue to take a stand against this new floppy, slack-stemmed, vinaigrette-soaked greenery until the iceberg triumphantly returns to its rightful place among the cucumber slices and bacon bits. Please join me in a new campaign: #FOIL. Friends of Iceberg Lettuce — unite!

MICHAEL CLAXTON is the narrative columnist for The Bison. He can be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu.

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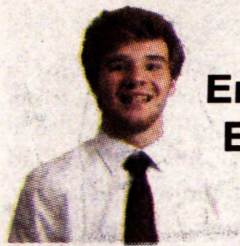
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April Fatula

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Encouraging Enthusiasm

Todd Gray
Head Sports Editor

Drastic tactics

On Sunday, Sept. 29, tensions were high as eight undefeated teams hoped to keep their spotless record. Only three of them managed to do this: the New England Patriots, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the San Francisco 49ers were desperate for a winning season and a chance to prove themselves. The Oakland Raiders took on the Indianapolis Colts at home, walking away with a 31-24 win, but that win came at a cost. In the heat of the competition, linebacker Vontaze Burfict initiated an intentional helmet-to-helmet hit against Colt's tight end Jack Doyle. This hit resulted in a season-long suspension for Burfict, but this wasn't the first time a hit has gotten him in trouble.

Currently, Burfict leads the National Football League with 23 personal fouls as of his entry into the league in 2012, and has accumulated over \$469,000 in fines over the course of his career. When signing with the Oakland Raiders in March, Burfict told reporters, "I am not a dirty player, but I can't go in there playing patty-cake. If I go out there playing patty-cake, then I'm going to be getting run over. I have 300-pound linemen, 300-plus-pound linemen coming at me, trying to block me. If I play soft, then I am not doing my job. Every team plays a little bit after the whistle. It's just a matter of if the ref catches it, you know what I mean?"

Football is a competitive sport that requires discipline and self-control. Otherwise, your team ends up with a laundry list of penalties and a player who's out for the season. Despite what the referees see and what they don't, there is a certain moral understanding that you are endangering other players when you play dirty, whether you have an excuse for doing so or not. Even though new rules have been put in place for player safety, it seems as though more and more players are ignoring them and playing as though the ref isn't looking.

When I was little, I used to live as though the ref wasn't looking, because in order to get what I wanted in the moment, I had to break the rules a little bit. Due to my sweet tooth, I was a repeat offender when it came to stealing candy from my family's snack stashes. Each time I stole, I did so as if no one even knew about it, but deep down I knew it was wrong. Sometimes my parents would catch me, and sometimes they wouldn't, but either way, I continued to do it because I didn't have self-control.

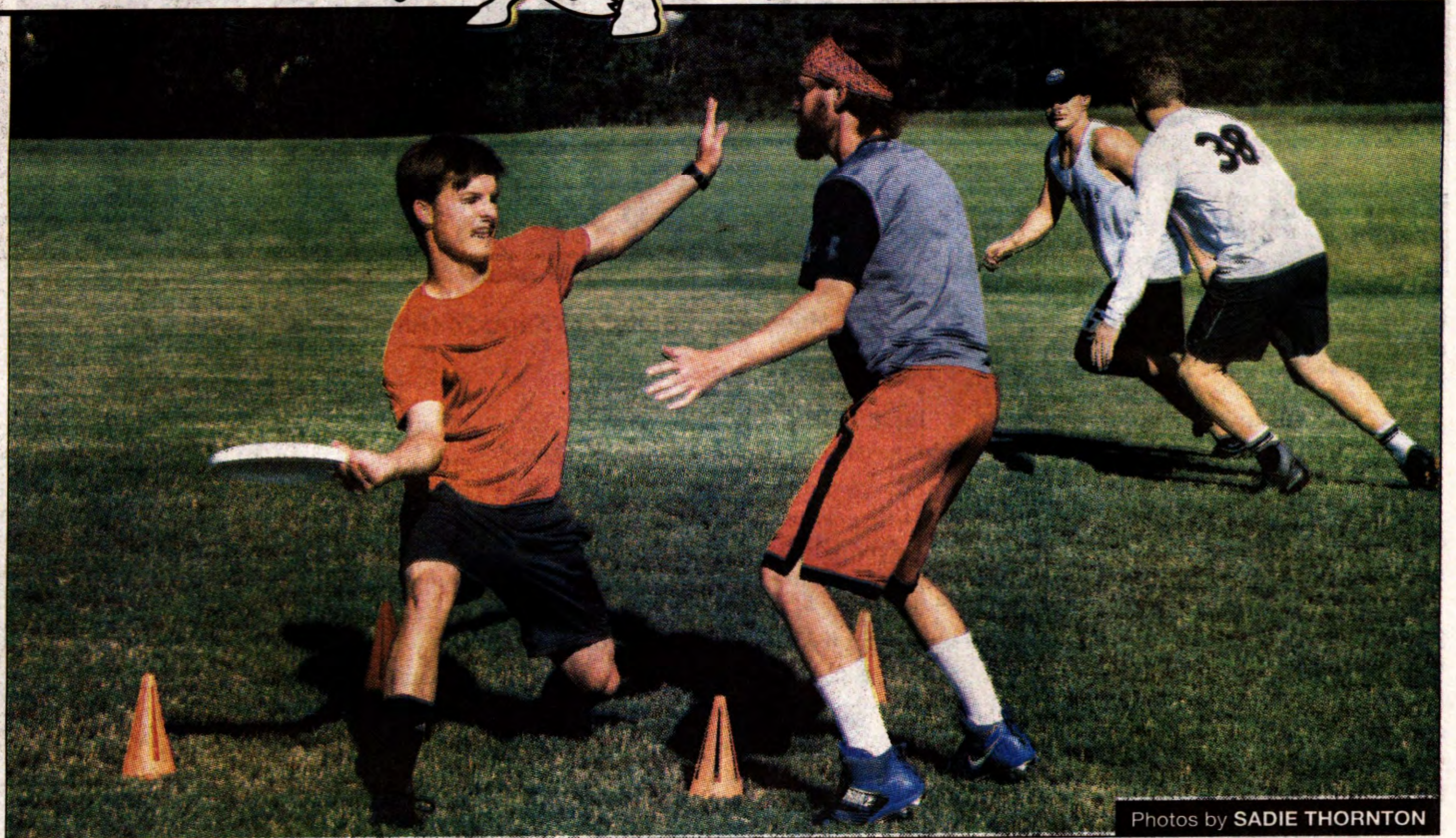
As I got older, it wasn't really candy that tested my self-control, rather a new funny movie that came out that I knew I wasn't allowed to watch or a video game my friend had that I knew I wasn't allowed to play. These were things I knew I could get away with because my parents wouldn't know — which is false, parents always know — but even though I got away with these things, I always felt awful about doing them.

I was manipulating God's grace and mercy in order to justify my behavior. One bad movie isn't going to kill me, I would tell myself, although I knew it was never going to be just one bad movie. With each bad movie I watched and each rule I tried to tiptoe around, the less guilty I felt doing those things. I normalized it, telling myself that there are worse sins than watching a movie.

Just like the NFL makes rules for player safety, God has set rules for our spiritual safety. He knows what will benefit us, so he gives us that unsettling feeling in our stomachs when something isn't good for us. God wants the best life for us and wants us to be filled with goodness and holiness, so when we disobey him, we are only losing the best life we could have asked for. This isn't an easy life to live, but it is by far the most rewarding.

So the challenge I give to you is the same one I give to myself: Do not live like the ref isn't looking, because he is. Even when life hits you as hard as a 300-pound linebacker, get back up and keep on playing.

TODD GRAY is the head sports editor for The Bison. He may be contacted at tgray3@harding.edu.



Photos by **SADIE THORNTON**

Sophomore Johnathan Austin and senior Joshua LeGrande practice ultimate frisbee. HU Apocalypse played against Division I schools last year such as Ole Miss, a school they defeated last fall.

Ultimate team with ultimate goal

Apocalypse frisbee team prepares for upcoming tournaments

RACHEL MCCURRY
asst. copy editor

While the Harding University Apocalypse ultimate frisbee team is not an official University team and has no formal tryout or recruitment process, the team plays at a competitive level across the country against teams from NCAA Division I schools. The team will head to Nashville, Tennessee, this weekend to play in a tournament at Vanderbilt University.

According to junior frisbee player Andrew Rardin, since players do not have to try out to play with HU Apocalypse, most teammates have little previous frisbee experience. He said the lack of formal ultimate frisbee training most freshmen players have allows the rookies to grow together as they learn the sport.

"When someone comes in as a freshman or sophomore — a rookie on the team — I think it's really cool that they all start at the same place," Rardin said.

Senior co-captain Nick Meehan has been on the team four years. As a leader, he works

with his co-captains to plan practices. As they prepare for the season, the captains focus on equipping new members with the skills they need to compete.

"We have introduced the rookies — the new members — to the team, and we are planning practices accordingly so we can teach them the things that they need to know," Meehan said.

According to Meehan, the team plans to attend three or four tournaments this semester. The fall semester is considered preseason, and the team's performance in fall tournaments will determine their rank for the spring.

Meehan said he is hopeful for a successful season, and he predicts HU Apocalypse will shine at the tournament in Nashville this weekend.

"I think we have a good chance at doing very well," Meehan said. "We've done very well previous years, and I really like the way that the team looks. Now I think we have a good set of rookies who are eager to play ... and our juniors and sophomores are also very well-versed."

Unlike the 18 sports in Division II that Harding sponsors, the Apocalypse frisbee team has the opportunity to play against teams from Division I schools. According to Meehan, Harding has had success in those competitions, beating Ole Miss last fall.

"Harding never fails to give [Division I teams] good competition, and sometimes we come out on top, and sometimes we don't, but no matter what, it comes out to be a really good experience," Meehan said.

Junior frisbee fan Delaney Hill said she regularly attends tournaments to support the team. She and others stand on the sidelines of the field during games and cheer for the Apocalypse.

"It's like basketball where you're very in it," Hill said. "You're on the sidelines, but you're also part of the game."

Practices take place twice a week with two additional pick-up games on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Those who are interested in joining the team or would like more information can contact Meehan at nmeehan@harding.edu.

Winning on and off the field

Harding athlete manages his own clothing brand

MARYN MCAFEE
student writer

As the Harding Bisons prepare for their upcoming games with the season in full swing, junior defensive back Jacory Nichols is also juggling his own personal clothing brand, Only1Way.

Nichols said his inspiration in creating Only1Way came from playing football and wanting people to give their best.

"It started off as a reminder to remain humble, keep the faith in God and grind for the things you want," Nichols said. "I just put all that together and made it one thing."

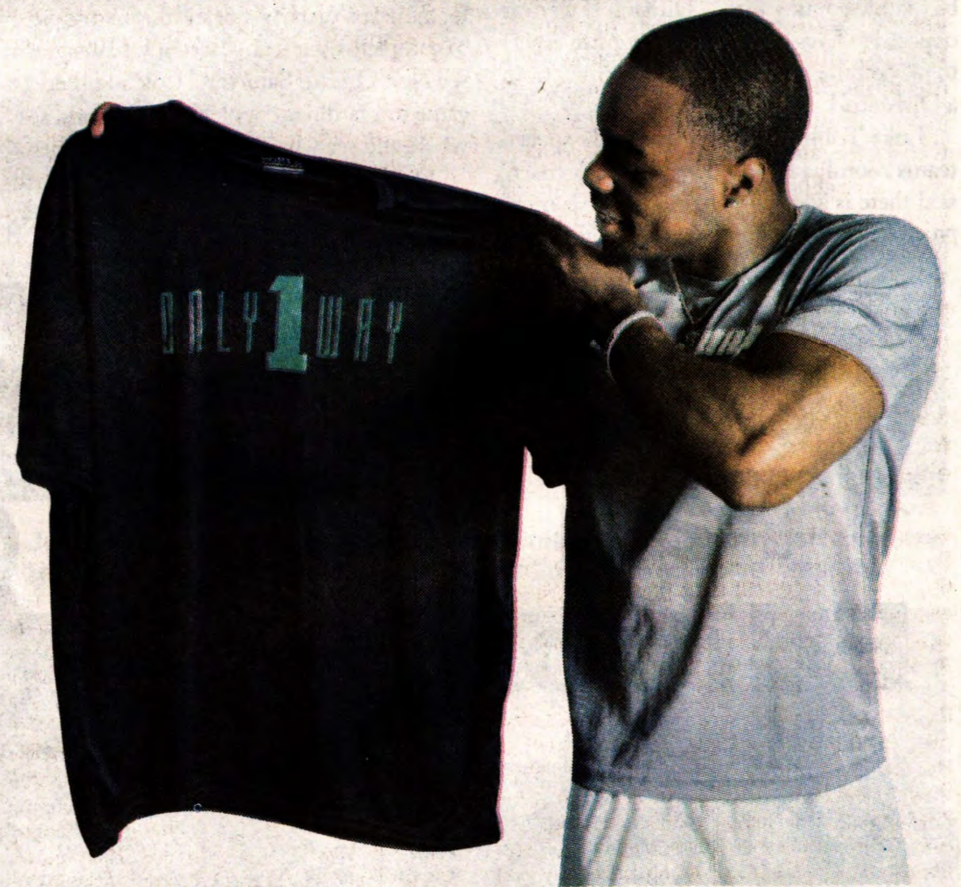
Senior Majerle Ingraham, a friend of Nichols, encouraged people to believe in something the way Nichols has believed in his brand.

"I feel like Only1Way is good for everybody, because the brand is really big on faith, so it just gives everybody an opportunity," Ingraham said. "The brand gives people confidence. If they want to believe in something and really put hard work into it, they can really take off like 1Way did."

Nichols said he was taken aback by the way people have shown their love toward his brand.

"When I started selling in the spring, [Only1Way] kind of blew up for a minute, and then I couldn't really put all of my time into it so I had to just let it be for a while," Nichols said.

On Sept. 21, Nichols was named Great American Conference Defensive Player of the Week.



Junior defensive back Jacory Nichols shows off a t-shirt that is part of his clothing brand. He started his brand last spring and has recently expanded to short sleeve shirts and wristbands.

Photo by **ELENA FENNER**

Despite being a full-time student, athlete and entrepreneur, he said he works toward achieving his best, which is what Only1Way is all about.

Other members of the Harding football team were in full support of their teammate as he launched his brand last spring and still are. Junior linebacker Shedrick Robinson, has bought multiple items from the line to help Nichols promote.

"I bought like six shirts and five bands," Robinson said. "I just always shout him out on Instagram or Snapchat. That's my brother,

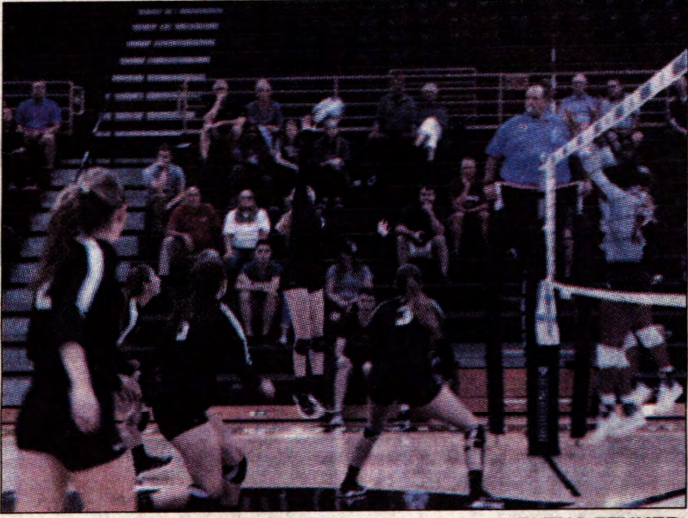
so I got to help find ways to support him in whatever he does."

As of now, Only1Way sells short sleeve shirts and wristbands; however, Nichols has plans to expand the line in the upcoming season.

"A lot of people are wanting to wear long sleeves, so I'm going to do something for the winter and then just go from there," Nichols said.

Whether he's working on his game or his brand, Nichols strives to put everything he has into the things he is passionate about.

Lady Bison Volleyball continues strong



(Left) The Lady Bisons huddle up, ready to face Henderson State. On Sept. 24 (Right) Lady Bisons play a match against the Reddies, sweeping them 3-0.

PERI GREENE
beat reporter

The 2019 Harding Volleyball team is comprised of 16 players, 8 of whom are freshmen.

Jazmyne Johnson, Harding volleyball graduate assistant, explained that one of the most important aspects of working with freshmen is getting them acclimated to college ball. Johnson reminded that it takes time for student athletes to learn a balance between academics, their sport, a social life and everything else that comes along with beginning college. Finding balance on the court is essential as well.

“Everyone is at the same level at this point, it’s just getting them to play as one,” Johnson said.

The team is beginning to establish their personality and reputation as they finish week four of their season.

“The first few weeks have been really fun and exciting,” Freshman team member Libby Hinton said. “We have played some really good teams this year that have pushed us to play our best.”

Head Volleyball Coach Meredith Fear, said she was excited about the young players and the potential they have.

“The consistency we are still missing, but they definitely have the drive, willingness, and readiness to play,” Fear said.

The new team is working diligently under the leadership of their coaches to achieve consistency, and Fear said they are establishing a deep bond with each other. Different players have stepped up in different games to help the team.

“We don’t have a starting line up, or starters ... but it’s also great because anybody can go in at any moment and feel like they are a part of it,” Fear said.

Johnson and Hinton agreed that the team is flexible and good at working together.

“Almost everyone on the team has multiple positions that they can play, so it gives us an extra edge against our competitors,” Hinton said.

Though the absence of starters is unusual, the three appeared to agree that it has turned into somewhat of an advantage.

The players adaptability proved true when one of their few juniors got hurt in

the first few weeks. Two freshmen, Hinton and Kelli Mckinnon, had to pull into the middle positions because of this injury, and according to Fear, have done so with grace.

“The freshmen we have are ready to compete today,” Johnson said. “Coach Fear did a great job of getting players that are ready to make an impact.”

Coach Fear said she is excited for freshmen players to experience big moments. In the match against Ouachitau Baptist on Sept. 26, as it was tied 13-13 in the fifth match, Coach Fear realized the junior libero was on the court, but the rest were freshmen. Here was a chance for them to have a big moment and gain wisdom from that moment for the future.

“While I think we can do bigger, better things in the big picture, in the small picture where we are still trying to figure that out, it feels uneasy,” Fear said.

She said she feels confident in her teams’ ability to gain the needed consistency, however.

The Harding Volleyball team is currently 9-6 overall and 2-2 in conference play. The volleyball team’s next game is Tuesday, Oct. 8, at home.



Players
Only
Rachel McCrae
Womens Tennis Player

“Players Only” is a special column written by Harding athletes. In this week’s issue: Lady Bisons tennis player Rachel McCrae discusses the preparation it takes to win matches.

For most athletes, preparing for a match not only involves getting yourself physically fit to play, but also a lot of mental preparation to ensure that you’re in the correct frame of mind to play at your best. This is especially important if you play in a tournament in which you have to play and win multiple matches in order to reach the finals of the competition.

Playing sports in a university setting in which you have to train for set lengths of time each day, means that your physical capacity and form is usually good before a match, but having to balance a busy academic and social life with your sporting commitments can be tricky for many student-athletes.

Part of the physical preparation for tennis involves reducing your training during competition season to make sure your body is in its prime, and this might involve physical therapy before and after play to prevent injuries.

Part of my preparation is making sure I’ve warmed up well before playing and doing a cooldown afterward. This includes stretching, rolling and occasionally taking an ice bath. Ensuring that you’re mentally focused for the duration of your match is very energy-consuming, so I always try to make sure I’m as relaxed as possible before so I have the energy needed to play my best.

Each individual has different methods for helping them relax, but personally, I like to listen to music before my tennis matches to help me temporarily forget about any problems going on in my life at that moment and to focus on the tactics I will implement during my match, and I take this time to go over the strategies I will follow.

Another important aspect that many consider before competing is their spiritual preparation for their sport. Examples of this could include saying a prayer or displaying Christian values on the court, such as showing etiquette toward your opposition and being a good role model. I believe that a combination of all of the above aspects are important for preparing for a match and I use these as a guide to help me plan for the next time I walk on court.

From Division II
to NFL

Scouts seek future stars
from Division II teams

Graphic by DARRIAN BAGLEY and photos by RYANN HEIM



TODD GRAY
head sports editor

The NFL hosts a draft every year in which college players are selected by teams to play on the professional level, but not all college athletes are chosen. Out of thousands of football players, only 254 were drafted to a team this year, and of those 254, only five came from NCAA Division II colleges.

While Division II players are competing against smaller teams and don’t receive as much publicity as Division I teams, they aren’t overlooked by NFL scouts. Still, the question has often been raised whether it’s harder to be drafted coming from a Division II team as opposed to Division I, and if players can expect to play on the professional level coming from a Division II school.

Luke Tribble, Harding football’s special teams coordinator and defensive back coach, said there is a lot that goes into the scouting process, even when scouting on the college level.

Because he has had a role in this in the past, he knows what teams are looking for when it comes to drafting players.

“There’s a lot of things we look for,” Tribble said. “But it all starts with the question that we ask their high school football coaches, and that is, ‘What type of person are they?’ We are looking for young men with really high character that are exceptional young men who want to do the right thing. There are some players who just like football, but we are looking for players who love the sport. We look for prospects that love everything about football, from weight training to playing on the field.”

When going professional, scouts are looking for the next breakout player and the missing piece to complete their team. Recently, scouts from the New Orleans Saints and Oakland Raiders came to Harding to look at the program as a whole and see what work is being done here.

Former San Francisco 49ers Head Coach Bill Walsh knows what to focus on when looking for potential pro players.

“The difference is the truly unique combination of skill, passion, focus, competitiveness and dedication that separates one from the other,” Billick said. “These are the same attributes it takes to play quarterback in the National Football League and the hardest to isolate, identify and quantify. But find me a tough gym rat with a live arm, pinpoint control and a level head, and I’ll take my chances.”

Harding junior offensive lineman Sam Wilson said there are several current players he believes have the potential to go on to play professionally, and he thinks that it is definitely possible to go pro coming from a Division II team.

“If you’re just a [good] ballplayer, people are going to find you,” Wilson said. “It’s like with colleges and going to a small high school. People think you won’t get recognized but it doesn’t matter where you’re from, you’re going to get the same opportunity that anyone could have. But if you’re a [good] ballplayer, you can go anywhere.”



Freshman Rachel McCrae (left) and junior Erin Young (right) pose proudly with Great American Conference Flight Four Champion awards. They won the Flight Four Championship Sept. 28.

LOCKER TALK
Fall Edition



Sam Wilson
football



Sarah Hudler
softball



Emma Welch
soccer



Jada Trice
cross-country



Jacie Evans
basketball

Pumpkin spice or apple cider?	Apple cider	Pumpkin spice	Apple cider	Pumpkin spice	Pumpkin spice
Perfect fall temperature?	74 degrees	65 degrees	75 degrees	65 degrees	In the 60s
Corn maze or haunted house?	Haunted house	Haunted house	Corn maze	Corn maze	Haunted house
Favorite fall dessert?	Chocolate cream pie	Pumpkin pie	Pillsbury sugar cookies	Pumpkin pie	Pillsbury sugar cookies

“Diminished Faculties”

Bible professors band together for music and community



Photo courtesy of JIM BURY

Diminished Faculties, a band comprised of Harding Bible faculty, performs one of their parody hits. The band was formed in 2012.

KASSIDY BARDEN
student writer

Students at Harding may think they know their teachers, but a professor band may prove them otherwise. Some faculty members from the College of Bible and Ministry have gotten away with having a band for the last seven years without gaining the recognition they deserve. Members include: Dr. Tom Alexander, retired professor on the guitar; Daniel Oden, associate professor on the keyboard; Devin Swindle, associate professor as lead singer; and Jim Bury, assistant professor on drums.

“We kept saying we needed to get together and play sometimes, so we decided if we were going to do this, it had to be now,” Bury said.

Bury said that up until this fall, when they played a set at the Bible majors’ retreat, they

had only ever played at Bible majors’ cookouts held every year in the spring. This was also where the band had their debut in 2012.

“We’ve been asked several times to perform,” Swindle said. “But you know our songs are parodies of people in the Bible department ... it’s so in-house, we don’t really perform outside our college.”

While most students outside of the college may not know the band exists, some students said they have come to love this talented group of teachers.

“It’s just very fun to see them in a different environment from teaching you very serious theology, and then at the same time being just very funny people who want to get to know and love us,” junior Morgan Proffitt said.

Bury insisted that this group, sometimes called a band, is simply a group of people

who get together once a year to have fun, not to entertain a crowd.

“It dawned on me that there’s a way to sneak in this annual performance,” Bury said. “If we’re trying to present ourselves as this quality entertainment, we’ll really fall short. But if it’s just fun, then everyone has fun, and we’re not being graded by our modest scale.”

The group performs parodies of songs about their own faculty, such as songs like “Monte be Good” to the tune of the hit song, “Johnny B. Goode,” referring to Dr. Monte Cox, dean of the college. They’ve also written many other songs about things like associate professor Mac Sandlin’s hair and Greek nouns. Both Bury and Swindle, who are the main songwriters, said they take their main inspiration from Weird Al Yankovic,

a king of parody himself.

“I’ve been listening to Weird Al since I was 13, so this kind of thing is just right up my alley,” Swindle said.

Bury said he likes to remind people who are tempted to take things too seriously that it really has nothing to do with how talented they are. It has more to do with low expectations on the part of their students.

“I use the analogy of dancing bears,” Bury said. “You don’t critique the bears on how well they are dancing, you are just delighted to see them do anything at all.”

Diminished Faculties has posted songs on YouTube and is continuing to write songs for the upcoming spring cookout.

“I guess we’ll keep doing it until everyone retires,” Swindle said. “We’ve kind of developed a cult following.”

BEHIND THE BLACKSMITH

Student forges camaraderie through craftsmanship

GARCELLE HODGE
student writer

Junior Timothy Holloway is a blacksmith, and has been practicing blacksmithing at home, in St. Louis, Missouri, since age 12.

Timothy’s older brother, Trevor Holloway, first mentioned the idea of being a blacksmith and making weaponry to him. Creating metal objects was fascinating to Timothy, and throughout his childhood, he became more and more interested in the idea. Eventually, Timothy got a forge for his 12th birthday.

“I just thought, swords, arrows, fun,” Timothy said. “I just thought that was the coolest thing ever.”

A blacksmith produces items made from metal, using a forge, which is a hot furnace essential to successfully producing items through heating and hammering. The technical process includes heating the steel, continuously hammering the piece and pressing the steel into the desired shape.

Timothy mostly practices blacksmithing in St. Louis. He typically creates such items as small knives, pocket knives, fixed blade knives, door handles and more for fun. He gives some of his creations to friends or keeps them for his own use. Timothy said he has made approximately 200 items since he began the craft.

Timothy began to use his interest in blacksmithing as an outreach ministry for people in his hometown. Anyone interested joins him and they have created a group of people that have a great time practicing blacksmithing together.

Senior Tanner Holloway, another older

brother, has watched Timothy practice his hobby of blacksmithing for as long as he can remember and admires his passion to become better.

“He is very driven and very ambitious,” Tanner said. “He wants to be better, do the best work that he can and just loves putting everything into it to make the best product possible.”

Tanner has participated in blacksmithing with his brother and shares the interest. Tanner said he admires how his brother has reached many people through blacksmithing.

“It is very cool that Timothy was able to do this — seek out a dream and make it happen,” Tanner said.

Dr. Shawn Fisher, associate professor of history, has forged metal with Timothy at his property near campus. Fisher mentioned in class that he is a blacksmith, and Timothy told Fisher he was also. Fisher invited Holloway to his property to practice the craft and was inspired by Timothy to start a Facebook group to connect students on campus interested in blacksmithing.

“Timothy used blacksmithing as an outreach, and I thought that was a great idea,” Fisher said. “Because of Timothy’s suggestion, I started a [Facebook] group like that on campus.”

Although the group has not been actively meeting up since Timothy’s freshman year, he said it was good to connect with others who shared his interest.

“If there is something that interests you and you want to do it, do what you can, and give it a try,” Timothy said. “You probably won’t regret it.”



Photo courtesy of KATIE HAAS

Junior Timothy Holloway uses blacksmithing as an outreach ministry. Holloway found camaraderie in the Harding blacksmith community.

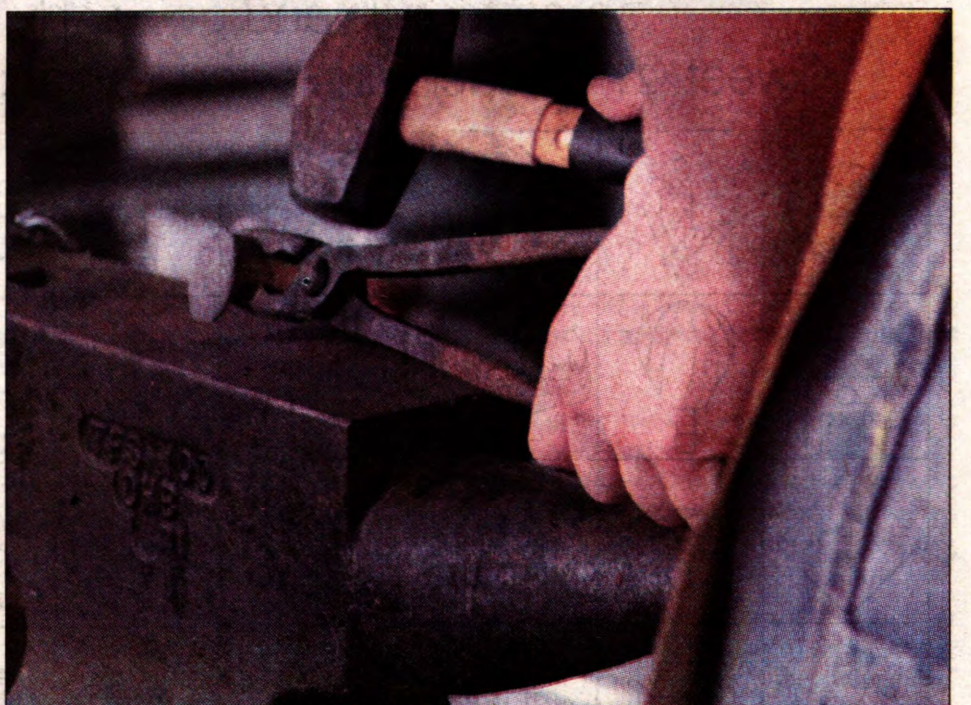


Photo courtesy of KATIE HAAS

Timothy Holloway uses his tools to shape hot metal. Holloway’s passion for this craft began in his childhood.

FALL BREAK DAY TRIPS



Photo by ELENA FENNER

DANIELLE TURNER
lifestyle editor

As fall break quickly approaches, some students have started to realize that it is less like fall break and more like fall long weekend. With only one day more than any other weekend, the question remains: Is it worth it to leave Searcy city limits for such a quick trip? Luckily, staying nearby for fall break is nothing to be ashamed about since there is actually a lot to do right here in central Arkansas.

Junior Carter Shields recommended taking a day trip to Petit Jean State Park in Morrilton, Arkansas. Petit Jean offers camping, hiking, rock-climbing and other outdoor opportunities. Shields said fall is the best time to visit Petit Jean because it is prettiest when the leaves are changing. He specifically recommended two hiking trails: Cedar Falls and the Stout's Point overlook. He said one is an easy downhill hike that takes you directly to a waterfall

and the other takes you to an outlook over central Arkansas.

"I suggest doing [the Cedar Falls trail] around sunset," Shields said. "It takes you up to this outlook where you could just see the sunset that just goes for miles, and you can see the horizon. It's just beautiful."

If hiking doesn't sound appealing, junior and Arkansas native Chantel Ceaser recommended taking a day trip to Bentonville to experience Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

"There are art pieces where you get to be a part of the art," Ceaser said. "It's just like oh, I get to be a part of something bigger than myself."

Ceaser also said the 3 1/2 hour drive to Bentonville might seem daunting to some students, but there is so much to do to make it worth while, like visiting the Walmart museum or the highly rated restaurant Tusk & Trotter.

Senior Laura Doyle said going to Peebles Farm Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze

is a great way to celebrate the beginning of fall. For any adventurous soul, Doyle recommended going at night, when Peebles features their haunted corn maze. But for someone uninterested in being chased by an actor with a chainsaw prop, she recommends going during the day time for family-friendly fall fun.

"It's just like my fall aesthetic in general," Doyle said. "There's a sunflower patch, which is incredible. There are pumpkin patches and a petting zoo. They also have like bonfire pits, horse carriage rides and hayrides."

Searcy's surrounding area is home to many other fun and easy day trips. Hiking Sugarloaf Mountain, exploring Eureka Springs, going to the Wild Wilderness Drive Through Safari in Gentry or even just spending the day in Little Rock's River Market, there are more than enough things to do right around here during your fall break.

"Go explore Arkansas," Ceaser said. "There's so much in Arkansas. It's beautiful. She has character. She has grace."



Graphic by DARRIAN BAGLEY

ALEXANDRA REGIDA
student writer

Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish climate activist, spoke at the United Nations conference in New York on Monday, Sept. 23.

Thunberg organizes climate strikes every Friday all over the world. She doesn't fly — she instead sails across the Atlantic to save fuel. She told world leaders on UN summit that they had stolen her childhood with "empty words", and she won the "Alternative Nobel Prize" for environmental work.

Thunberg's actions may seem extreme, but her passion is an example of individuals making a difference.

Many Harding students may not know about the "green side" of Harding, because it is not often discussed.

"I do not tell people I am vegan, because even the label 'vegan' carries so many stereotypes," Dr. Cody Sipe, associate professor of physical therapy at Harding, said. "I felt bad telling people publicly, because usually people look at you funky."

Sipe is a founder of Plant Powered Searcy (PPS) — a new organization to increase awareness of health and environmental issues. PPS holds informational lunch sessions complete with healthy and delicious plant-based cuisine where participants can learn more about the organization.

"People think when you say you do not eat meat, you are somehow taking a moral high road, and it is simply not the case," Dr. Amy Qualls, associate professor of English, said.

Qualls joined the green side when she went to college, and since then, in the name of the environment, she does not eat meat, avoids plastic, recycles and makes her own shampoos and soaps, minimizing her waste level almost to zero.

Qualls said the factory farm system creates an environmental disaster because it exploits animals and human labor, contributes to greenhouse emissions, misuses the resource of water, and has the potential to contaminate water.

"At some point, everything is going to come to an end, and we will go to look around and say, 'What are we doing?' And it bothers me," Qualls said. "I think it should bother a lot of people."

Qualls said she incorporates a lot of this material in her classes.

"Very organically, I don't force it," Qualls said. "Students can start by researching to make informed decisions; they can choose one day a week with no meat. It can make a huge impact on a college campus."

Several years ago, Harding placed recycling bins in dormitories. However, some students kept throwing food in the recycling bins.

"The administration has shown that they are open to alternative possibilities, and it is up to the students to demand it. Once they do, they will find that the administration will have open ears," Qualls said.

Senior Alyssa Martin said she believes becoming an eco-friendlier campus goes far beyond what the University itself chooses to do.

"There's obviously a lot of loopholes in this argument, because having a more environmentally friendly campus would promote people to be more aware of their environmental choices, and in return, most likely make people more environmentally aware," Martin said.

Searcy Recycling Center used to have their bins outside of their facility, but they had to move them back into building because people were throwing trash in them. Searcy recycles type 1 and type 2 plastics, cans, cardboard boxes and paper. Two years ago, they began to recycle glass.

Dr. Jon Singleton, associate professor of English, is intentional about living a simple lifestyle.

"I have a painted sign on my living room wall: 'simplify.' Rent a smaller house, try to avoid having a cluttered house, try to keep only what we really value — though this is hard — and try to be careful of bringing new possessions into our house," Singleton said.

Singleton and his family have one car. He rides a bike. Singleton said although it causes scheduling difficulties, it forces the family to bear with each others' needs and see more clearly the impact of the commitment on the family.

Not everyone may be a Greta Thunberg. However, as shown by many Harding professors, everyone can do their part to go green.



Photo by RYANN HEIM

Visitors admire art at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Crystal Bridges is a popular fall break destination for students.



Photo by ELENA FENNER

Sign notifies onlookers Peebles Farm has opened for the season. The farm has been fall hot spot for students in previous years.



Photo by ELENA FENNER

Peebles Farm displays its annual pumpkin house. This has been a popular fall photo spot for students.



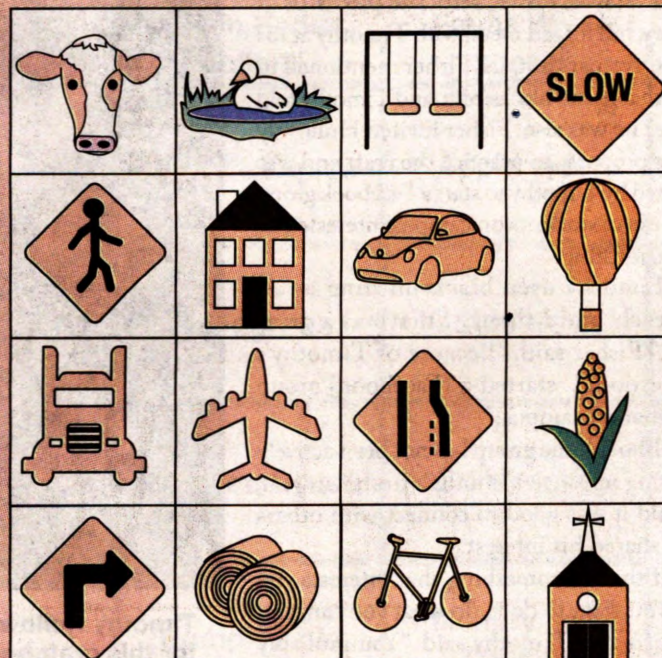
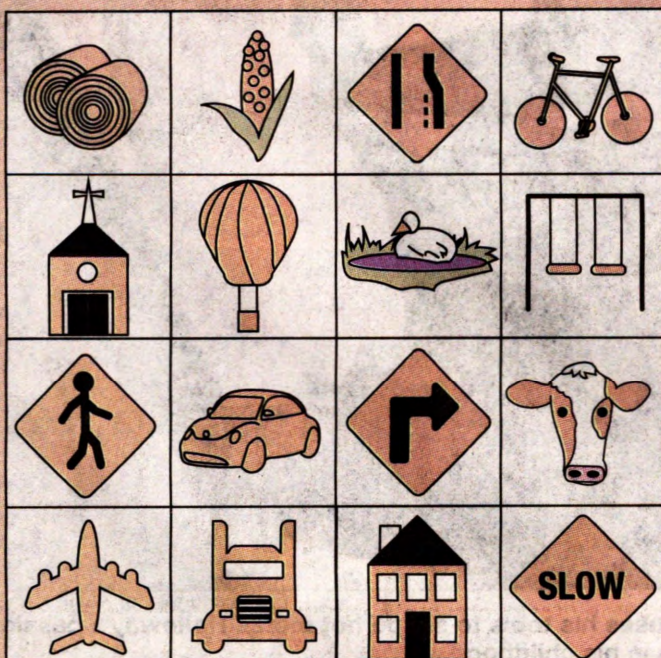
Photo by RYANN HEIM

Crystal Bridges displays Painters of Modern Life exhibit. The museum has free general admission and has rotating exhibits.

ROAD TRIP BINGO CARDS

Long road trip ahead? Cut out these bingo cards, gather some friends and get ready to play.

Tweet @hustudentpubs and let us know who wins!



Graphic by AVERY TILLET